

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 34860 301250Z  
ACTION CU-04

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P 301120Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO RUEHIA WASHDC PRIORITY 9956  
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU  
AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI  
AMCONSUL SONGKHLA  
AMCONSUL UDORN  
SECSTATE WASHDC 7705

UNCLAS BANGKOK 34860

USIAC

FOR IEA AND ICS/D, CINCPAC FOR USIA ADVISOR, CHIANG MAI  
AND UDORN FOR BRANCH PAO, STATE FOR CU/EA

SUBJECT: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS -- DECEMBER 24 - 30, 1976

MEDIA CONCERNS:

1. RTG CONCERN OVER RADIO THAILAND COVERAGE:

THE MINISTER ATTACHED TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, DUSIT SIRIWAN, ANNOUNCED DECEMBER 29 THAT THE PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT'S RADIO THAILAND WOULD USE THE MEGAWATT VOICE OF FREE ASIA TRANSMITTER (THE TEAK UNIT, CONTROLLED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY) TO CARRY RADIO THAILAND PROGRAMS ON A TEMPORARY BASIS TO EXTEND RADIO THAILAND'S COVERAGE AREA. THIS, HE SAID, WOULD BE TO TEST THE COVERAGE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A 500-KILOWATT THAI STATION AND THE MEGAWATT UNIT. PRICES OF MEGAWATT TRANSMITTERS WILL ALSO BE EXAMINED AND A REPORT IS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE CABINET BY THE PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 34860 301250Z

(PRD) AT THE NEXT CABINET MEETING. NO DETAILS ABOUT BROADCAST TIMES OVER THE TEAK TRANSMITTER WERE REVEALED. RTG HAS BEEN CONCERNED WITH RADIO THAILAND'S COVERAGE AREA AND HAS MADE SEVERAL STATEMENTS ABOUT INCREASING COVERAGE IN THE PROVINCES.

2. STIFF PENALTY FOR TRAFFICKERS URGED:

THAILAND'S LARGEST NEWSPAPER, THAI RATH, EDITORIALY URGED THE RTG TO PRESCRIBE THE DEATH PENALTY FOR DRUG TRAFFICKERS. IN DECEMBER 27 EDITORIAL, THE PAPER NOTED THAT OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES, SUCH AS SINGAPORE, EXECUTE TRAFFICKERS AND SAID THAILAND SHOULD DO THE SAME "TO COMPLETELY ERADICATE DRUG TRAFFICKING HERE."

### 3. ANTI-THAI VIOLENCE IN LOS ANGELES:

THAI RATH DECEMBER 29 BEGAN WHAT APPARENTLY WILL BE A SERIES OF REPORTS FROM ITS "SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT" IN LOS ANGELES DETAILING KILLING OF THAIS IN THAT CITY BY "NEGRO GANGS" AS REVENGE FOR THAIS GRABBING JOBS OF AMERICANS. THE FIRST REPORT SAID THE GANGS KILLED "THE THAI MANAGER OF A GAS STATION." A SECOND STORY, IN THE DECEMBER 30 THAI RATH, SAYS THE THAI COUNSUL IN LOS ANGELES IS WORRIED ABOUT THE SITUATION.

### 4. HEADLINES:

MAIN STORIES OF INTEREST IN THE PRESS CONCERNED COMMUNIST INSURGENT ATTACKS IN NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN THAILAND AND THE RTG RESPONSE, THE CHRISTMAS DAY EGYPTIAN AIRLINER CRASH NEAR BANGKOK AIRPORT AND THE LONG-TERM SENTENCES HANDED TO TWO AMERICANS FOR DRUG SMUGGLING. ALSO, THE CONTINUING FEUD BETWEEN INTERIOR MINISTER SAMAK SUNTARAWET AND PRESS PEAKED WITH SAMAK TELLING NEWSMEN HE WILL BREAK RELATIONS WITH THEM BECAUSE OF THEIR COMPLAINT TO THE PRIME MINISTER OVER HIS CRITICISM OF THE PRESS.

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

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PAGE 03     BANGKO 34860 301250Z

### 5. STUDENT ORIENTATION:

IN COOPERATION WITH BANGKOK BANK, POST PARTICIPATED DECEMBER 28 IN AN ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR 280 THAI STUDENTS DUE TO BEGIN UNIVERSITY STUDIES IN THE U.S. DURING UPCOMING WINTER TERM. POST'S STUDENT ADVISOR, KHUN POONSANG SUTABUTR, JOINED OTHER THAI COUNSELORS IN A PRESENTATION DESIGNED TO ACQUAINT THAI STUDENTS WITH VARIOUS ASPECTS OF LIFE IN US, BOTH ON AND OFF CAMPUS. KHUN POONSANG'S PRESENTATION FEATURED A SHOWING OF THE AGENCY FILM PRODUCTION, UNIVERSITY TODAY. AFTER THE FORMAL BRIEFING, STUDENTS KEPT KHUN POONSANG AND OTHER COUNSELORS BUSY FOR ANOTHER HOUR ANSWERING QUESTIONS ON STUDENT LIFE IN THE U.S. THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, POST PROVIDES COUNSELLING FOR THAI STUDENTS INTERESTED IN US STUDIES AND REGULARLY PARTICIPATES IN QUARTERLY BRIEFINGS FOR STUDENTS ACCEPTED FOR ENROLLMENT IN AMERICAN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.

6. CHIANG MAI BPAO IN PHITSANULOK:

CHIANG MAI BPAO DOUG ROSE PRESENTED A ONE AND ONE-HALF HOUR LECTURE AND FILM PROGRAM ON JOHN STEINBECK AT SRINAKHARINWIROT UNIVERSITY IN PHISANULOK DECEMBER 20. THE PROGRAM CO-INCIDED WITH STUDY OF STEINBECK'S OF MICE AND MEN, A CURRENT READING PROJECT FOR 90 STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY. LATER, MRS. ROSE JOINED DOUG TO PRESENT A PROGRAM OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC ON THE ROOF OF THE UNIVERSITY'S ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.  
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## Message Attributes

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